

State of Illinois, women earn nearly \$12,000 a year less than their male counterparts.

During my service in the Army, compared to my male counterparts, I received equal pay for equal work. This policy of fairness has helped make our military the strongest, fiercest in the world.

Pay discrimination doesn't just hurt women; it hurts working families in towns like Itasca and Elgin, Illinois. I know that my neighbors in the Eighth Congressional District believe that their daughters deserve better than this.

Pay equality for women is not only the right thing to do, but it will make our economy stronger; it will make our families stronger; it will make America stronger.

So, on Equal Pay Day, let us recommit ourselves to doing everything in our power to end pay inequality for our country. Congress needs to act now and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act so that women have the opportunity to stand up to this discrimination.

CLIMATE CHANGE

(Mr. WAXMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Safe Climate Caucus to challenge the Republicans on the Energy and Commerce Committee to a debate on climate change.

In the last Congress, the Republicans in our committee voted that climate change is a hoax. They voted 53 times to block action on climate change. They voted to defund research, to block action by EPA to control pollution, to prevent energy efficiency measures from going into effect, and to stop the administration from encouraging developing countries to do their part.

This year, they have gone silent. They refuse to hear the views of our premier scientific institutions, but they won't justify their inaction. They won't hold hearings. They won't listen to experts. That's why the members of the Safe Climate Caucus are challenging them to come to the floor and debate us.

We are elected to solve problems, not to ignore them. Let's have the debate about how to solve the climate issue.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, Tuesday, April 9, is Equal Pay Day because it symbolizes how far in 2013 women must work in order to make what their male counterparts earned in 2012. This means that it took more than 3 months in 2013 for women's wages to finally catch up to what men were paid in 2012.

For working mothers who have to put food on the table and the retired women whose income is tied to their former salary, the wage gap means real dollars.

Listen to this. In south Florida, if the wage gap was eliminated, a working woman would have enough money for 51 more weeks of food, 3 months more of mortgage and utility payments, 5 more months of rent, or 1,600 additional gallons of gas.

Equal pay is about fairness and it's about families.

RECOGNITION OF EQUAL PAY DAY

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Equal Pay Day. It's the day in 2013 when women finally earn what their male peers did in 2012. Put another way, women work 15½ months to make what a man makes in 12.

Fifty years ago, President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law. Yet half a century later, women still earn only 77 cents to the dollar compared to their male peers. These gaps are even wider for women of color. African American women earn just 64 cents and Latinas earn 55 cents for every dollar.

Sadly, not a single State or major metropolitan area has eliminated the wage gap. In Maryland, the National Partnership for Women and Families found that women who are employed full time lose \$7.8 billion each year due to this wage gap.

We passed the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act 4 years ago to restore the right of women to challenge unfair pay in court, but here the gap persists. We must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act to strengthen the Equal Pay Act and help gender-based discrimination end once and for all.

We all benefit when women earn equal pay. Closing the wage gap must be an integral part of strengthening America's working families and our economy.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JAMES GRISSOM

(Mr. SWALWELL of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, for the many in the world to live free, we must rely upon the sacrifices of the few in our armed services. On March 21, we lost Sergeant First Class James Grissom of Hayward, California, while serving Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Grissom graduated from Mount Eden High School in 1999, and he earned a degree from the Art Institute of San Francisco before enlisting in the Army. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 1st Special Forces

Group. As a Special Forces soldier, Sergeant Grissom was physically and mentally strong and honored with many medals, including the Bronze Star and the NATO Medal.

His work as a soldier brightly illustrates the heroism of the servicemembers who serve our country and are dedicated to protecting our freedom. I am forever grateful for Sergeant Grissom's sacrifice and service.

Even after Sergeant Grissom passed away, his service to others continued. Years ago, Sergeant Grissom chose to be an organ donor, and his organs were used recently to help others in need across the world.

We shall not forget the sacrifice and honor of Sergeant Grissom. For his country, he gave his life; for the rest of the world, he gives his body.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, as we mark Equal Pay Day, we face the alarming reality that women still earn just 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man. As a Nation, we must do better than this.

Women in my State of New Hampshire who work full time earn over \$12,000 less every year than men. That wage gap has real consequences. Smaller paychecks make it harder for families to purchase health care, to send their kids to college, and to save for retirement. That doesn't just hurt women; it hurts our entire community and our economy.

To prevent wage discrimination and to protect its victims, Congress must pass the Paycheck Fairness Act. We must recommit ourselves to being a Nation that rewards the hard work of all Americans, regardless of gender. Mothers, sisters, and daughters across New Hampshire deserve nothing less.

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EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Equal Pay Day and call for passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

In my home State of Delaware, a full-time working woman is paid nearly \$10,000 less than a man who works full time. That means women in Delaware make 80 cents for every dollar men make; and for women of color, the pay gap is even worse.

If this pay gap were eliminated, women in my State and across the country would have more money to spend on rent, more money for child care, more money for gas, and more money for food.

Above all, a system that pays men more than women for doing the same